TRENDS

5/31/88 A 3275-2

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

Office of Information and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 26, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 21 totaled 19.1 billion ton-miles, up 5.3 percent from the 18.1 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Cumulative volume for the first 20 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 375.8 billion ton-miles carried, up 7.4 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended May 21 totaled 428,087, up 3.3 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but down 0.1 percent from the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 1.0 percent in the East, and 6.0 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 12 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Grain showed a gain of 4,252 cars (15.9 percent), motor vehicles and equipment increased by 3,041 cars (14.9 percent) and crushed stone, gravel and sand loadings were up by 2,011 cars (12.3 percent). Ten of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended May 14 totaled 110,676 trailers and/or containers, up 8.2 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 19 weeks of the year was 2,046,699 trailers and/or containers, up 5.4 percent from 1987.

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/21/88:

	Loadings in Week ended May 21, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	31,061	I	4,252	15.9	D	1,900	5.8
Other farm products	3,568	D	774	17.8	I	98	2.8
Metallic ores	19,164	D	223	1.2	D	1,677	8.0
Coal	115,653	I	797	0.7	D	2,915	2.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	18,355	I	2,011	12.3	D	868	4.5
Nonmetallic minerals	11,606	I	918	8.6	I	637	5.8
Grain mill products	11,108	D	180	1.6	I	409	3.8
Food and kindred products	10,953	D	26	0.2	D	91	0.8
Primary forest products	10,214	D	844	7.6	I	297	3.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,100	D	547	6.3	I	224	2.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,265	D	259	2.1	D	34	0.3
Chemicals and allied products	27,285	I	1,174	4.5	I	149	0.5
Petroleum products	5,172	I	284	5.8	D	1	0.02
Stone, clay and glass products	11,752	I	512	4.6	D	14	0.1
Coke	5,419	I	383	7.6	D	592	9.8
Metals and products	10,336	I	1,093	11.8	I	251	2.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	23,426	I	3,041	14.9	I	1,093	4.9
Waste and scrap materials	10,213	I	1,539	17.7	I	334	3.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,601	D	114	4.2	I	164	6.7
All other carloads	79,836	I	765	1.0	D	335	0.4
Total Cars Loaded	428,087	I	13,802	3.3	D	4,771	0.1
Corresponding week of 1987	414,285						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (20 weeks)	8,388,657	7,886,672	I 6.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
19 weeks ended May 14	356.8	331.9	I 7.5
Week ended May 21	19.1	18.1	I 5.3
20 Weeks cumulative	375.8	350.0	I 7.4

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